Status of Bombay as a National City

4582. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for declaring a city as National City;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from the Maharashtra Government for upgrading the status of Bombay as a National City; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (c) The Government of India do not declare any cities as National cities. Taking into consideration the present population, urban growth rate and contribution that the Mega Cities make towards National Development, a Centrally Sponsorded Scheme for infrastructural development of Mega cities has been formulated by the Planning Commission. The Government of Maharashtra formulated and submitted a proposal for provision of infrastructural and basic amenities in Bombay at an estimated cost of Rs. 1217 crores. The proposal has been recommended to the Planning Commission. The proposal has been discussed by Planning Commission with the State Govt. and final decision regarding size of the project and pattern of funding has not been taken.

Unauthorised construction of commercial complex in Hari Nagar, Delhi

4583. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a four storeyed commercial complex with cent percent basement has been constructed on plot No. A-252 in Hari Nagar, New Delhi especially where by a school with about 1000 students in running in the opposite direction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the local residents have made representation to all civic authorities including Lt. Governor and Municipal Commissioner;

(c) if so, what steps are beng taken to demolish the illegal and unauthorised structure, especially when this structure do have lavatories in the convered illegal verandah; and

(d) if so, by when it would be done; if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that necessary action under sections 343, 344 and 345 (A) of the DMC Act have been initiated against the Seviations carried out against the sanctioned building plan.

(d) MCD was restrained from taking demolition action by the Appellate Tribunal, MCD. The properly was sealed on 12.8.1993. The sealing orders were setaside by the Appellate Tribunal, MCD on 19.8.1993 and property was accordingly de-sealed on 20.8.1993. The case now stands remanded for fresh hearing. Further action in this respect can be taken after the desposal of remand case.

House building loans to the drought affected people

4584. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State Governments which have approached the Central Government with a programme to help the low and middle income groups and other families in the severely drought affected areas which need a large programme of house building loans; and

(b) the decision taken thereon by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) No such proposal has been received from any State Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Acquisition of agricultural land by Government

4585. SHRI BHUPENDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government acquire agricultural land from farmers for Public purposes only or for some other purposes also;

(b) what is the necessity of acquiring agricultural land from the farmers and not utilising it for years for the declared purposes and whether the farmers are being paid market value of their land;

(c) whether acquisition at very low prices and selling to private persons or parties at much higher prices does serve public purpose;

(d) whether not utilising acquired land for years together does not amount to grabbing of land from farmers; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) As informed by the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi, land is acquired by the Government for public purpose or for a public company under the relevant provisions of the Land Acquisition Act 1994. The Land acquisition Collector pays to the farmers market value of the land as on date of Section 4 notification in the award passed by him. The departments/bodies for which land is acquired are responsible for utilising it expeditiously.

(c) to (e) DDA has reported that it acquires undeveloped lands. The Delhi Development Act, 1957 enjoins upon the Authority to develop such lands before disposing of them. What some protion of such lands may be auctioned at a premium part of the acquired land is allotted at a subsidy. Such differential between the prices paid to farmers, and disposal prices, is due to the cost of development. the subsidies and premia on total cost. In view of the physical limitation of water availability, finances, etc., there is a time lag between acquisition of land and its ultimate disposal.

Transfer of parks to NDMC

4586. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to transfer all the parks and open spaces along the roads in New Delhi Municipal Committee areas to the NDMC:

(b) which authority has so far been looking after these parks and open spaces; and

(c) what are the reasons for the transfer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) As yet, no such decision has been taken.

(b) The open space/parks along the N.D.M.C. road are being maintained by New Delhi Municipal Committee except the open spaces on either side of Shantipath which are being maintained by C.P.W.D.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

Display of slogsn by DDA

4587. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has displayed some slogan like 'DDA stands for Quality' at several sites under its jurisdiction;